

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-19 are amended. No new matter is added. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiner Weintrop in the March 22, 2007 personal interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

I. Claim Objections

Claims 1-20 are objected to due to informalities. Claims 1-19 are amended to obviate the objections. As acknowledged by the Examiner during the interview, the objections to the claims are overcome.

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §101

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 4, 7, 10, 13 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 4, 7, 10, 13 and 16 are amended to obviate the rejection. Claims 1, 4, 7, 10, 13 and 16 are now more clearly directed to statutory subject matter. As acknowledged by the Examiner during the interview, the rejection of the claims is overcome.

III. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,946,464 to Kito et al. (Kito). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1, 4, 7, 10, 13 and 16 recite, *inter alia*, "the instruction data includes at least one of copying, printing, scanning, sending facsimiles, receiving facsimiles and image processing." Support for the amendment can be found in the specification at, for example, page 7, lines 6-12.

As acknowledged during the March 22 interview, Kito fails to teach or suggest instruction data that includes at least one of copying, printing, scanning, sending facsimiles, receiving facsimiles and image processing. Accordingly, Kito fails to teach or disclose each and every feature of claims 1, 4, 7, 10, 13 and 16.

For at least these reasons, independent claims 1, 4, 7, 10, 13 and 16 and their dependent claims are patentable over Kito. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: March 26, 2007

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